

# Alumni Pulse



## Pakistan U.S. Alumni Network KP & FATA Chapter News Letter Volume 1 (April – Sep, 2013)

This is six monthly Newsletter for alumni of U.S. Embassy programs. Here you will find out about the successes of your fellow alumni, information about Embassy programs and events, and training opportunities offered exclusively to our alumni. Have an idea for an alumni project or event? Have a success story or useful tip you want to share? Write to Alumni Coordinator, Usman Saddique at ([SaddiqueU@State.Gov](mailto:SaddiqueU@State.Gov))





Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

## International Exchange Alumni

Inspire. Empower. Connect

Please join the Global State Alumni Community at [www.alumni.state.gov](http://www.alumni.state.gov) where you can meet and stay in touch with fellow alumni from all over the world; hear about alumni news and activities; learn about job and grant opportunities; access over 1000 academic and prominent journals and periodicals; and share your stories and participate in global discussions. The State Alumni website is an exclusive community network only for the U.S.G alumni to ensure that your exchange experience does not stop when you return home, but continues to result in productive professional, societal, cultural, and community engagements.

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## Message from Public Affairs Officer



It is a pleasure to be here in Peshawar as the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate. I recently had the honor of awarding certificates to the PUAN KP and FATA leadership and executive council. As I shared with them, I have been amazed by the level of involvement of our alumni here in KP and FATA. As they could also tell you, I am very interested in learning about your experiences in the US and what we can do to help you get involved in your community. Please remember to take full advantage of PUAN's Alumni Small Grant program. If you need

assistance in applying for a grant or just to discuss an idea, please feel free to contact the PAS office at the Consulate.

I hope I will have the opportunity to meet more of you in the next few months.

**Raymond Tripp**  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
**U.S. Consulate General Peshawar**

**"My American colleagues and I appreciate that it is your good experiences in our country – whether decades ago or just last year – that bring you together as a group motivated to do good in Pakistan,"**

***Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission to Pakistan Thomas E. Williams***

## Leadership and Executive council members

Mr. Faisal Shahzad: President, Pak U.S. Alumni Network, KP & FATA Chapter

Mr. Waheed ullah Mohmand: General Secretary, Pak U.S. Alumni Network, KP & FATA Chapter

Mr. Waseem Khan: Member Executive Council

Mr. Shayan Sikandar: Member Executive Council

Miss. Saira Qureshi: Member Executive Council

Miss. Sanna Ejaz: Member Executive Council

Mr. Baitullah Khan: Member Executive Council

Mr. Maaz Islam: Member Executive Council

Miss. Raisa Zaman: Member Executive Council

Mr. Abdur Rehman: Member Executive Council

Miss. Meena Khan: Member Executive Council

Mr. Maaz Islam : Member Executive Council

Mr. Zafar Jan: Member Executive Council

Mr. Mohammad Faisal Jan: Member Executive Council

## Alumni Outreach through Radio

### KP Alumni engages FATA youth through radio



PUAN-KP alumni Yasir Hussain Turi and Adnan Rasheed were invited on a live radio show Sabaoon on FM 101, on April 11, 2013 to share their views on Scholarship Opportunities for Pukhtoon Students. Yasir Hussein is a lecturer at Edwardes College Peshawar and a Fulbright alumnus. Adnan Rasheed is producer of Inter media and has been on U.S. Exchange Program twice. The radio show received live calls and the guests answered the queries of callers.

### Alumna Shares Experience on KP/FATA Radio Show



On May 6, KP Alumna Jasmin Fatima described her experience in the United States on an exchange program on a popular FM 101 radio program. She explained how youth could contribute more to Pakistan's future. Jasmin also answered questions about child labor, youth leadership, volunteerism, and the importance of voting in the national elections. FM-101 reaches the tribal areas and is a key vehicle for PAS Peshawar to reach strategic Pashto-speaking audiences.

### KP Alumni talked about exchange programs and scholarship opportunities at Radio Show



Two U.S. State alumni Mishka Orakzai and Sana Ijaz were on FM 101's show "Sabaoon". On the show they talked about U.S. student exchange programs and scholarship opportunities and answered questions via live calls.

## Opportunities

### Alumni Mentorship Program in Peshawar, Pakistan



After wide recognition and appreciation of last year's pilot project Alumni Mentorship Program, the plan was spread nationwide this year. Many established and senior alumni participated in this program of keeping junior talented and hard-working alumni as internee in their organization/office. Ms. Sadia Mehboob was one of such junior internees who have been working at the South Asian Center for International and Regional Studies (SACIRS).

Please click on the link to watch our video on mentorship program [Mentorship Program Video](#)



## Projects in Collaboration with IREX

### KIDS Talent Show in Village Babuzai



KP alumnus Ahsan Gul arranged Kids Talent Show on June 14, 2013 in his village Babuzai. More than 500 students from under privileged schools were invited to take part in different segments of the event i.e. cultural show, quick solvers, kids arts show, little motivators, community service. This project was funded by Project Smile, a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State and implemented by IREX.

### KP Alumni Outreach to Kurram Agency bordering Afghanistan



On June 28, Jasmine Fatima, a 2012 UGRAD alumna from Parachinar in Kurram Agency, conducted an educational campaign for cancer patients at Agency Head Quarter Hospital Parachinar in Kurram Agency. The area, bordering Afghanistan and North Waziristan Agency, suffers from terrorism and sectarian violence that cripple its socioeconomic and political development. Jasmine implemented her project with help from ECA alumni funding, coordinated through IREX.

### Free Medical Camp at Thandayani



On Sept 1st, 2013 Ugrad KP alumnus Abdul Hameed arranged a one day free medical camp in village named Sialkot near Thandayani. More than 250 people benefited from this medical camp where they got checked up with medical doctors and got free medicines. Abdul Hameed used mini grant from IREX and did local fundraising for this project.

### "Together We Can" - Project Smile by KP Alumnus



On September 17, 2013, Wajid ur Rehman, a Global Ugrad alumnus along with his student fellows, spent a day with the Special children at a local school to make them happy. There were nearly fifty students and they received gift packets containing a drawing book, color pencils, sharpener, rubber, scale and pencil. Wajid implemented his project with help from ECA alumni funding, coordinated through IREX.

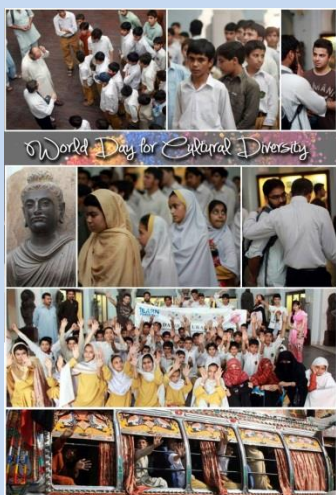
## International Days Marked

### Earth Day Celebration



PUAN-KP Alumni celebrated Earth Day at Institute of Management Sciences where alumni and students from schools were invited. U.S. Exchange program Alumni made speeches regarding the awareness about the environment, Access Alumni and school kids made drawings highlighting the need to keep the environment clean. Attendants received updated information on environment issues and appreciated such kind of events.

### KP alumni celebrate Cultural Diversity Day



On May 21, KP alumni of the YES program celebrated World Cultural Diversity Day by visiting the Peshawar Museum with 50 underprivileged students from the Islamic Educational Complex. This was the first trip for most students outside their village. With the help of fellow alumni and volunteers, the students learned about their history, traditions, and cultural heritage. Additionally, YES alumni shared their positive experiences in the United States with the students.

### Independence Day Celebrations



YES Alumni KPK spent the Independence Day of Pakistan (14th August) with 50 under-served children at YES Alumni Ranra(light) Learning Center in Peshawar. The children were engaged in various interactive art activities as well as indoor and outdoor games. In addition, each student received a school bag, a pack of stationary and candies etc as presents in the spirit of Eid.

### Celebrating International Peace Day



On September 20, 2013, Our PUAN-KP Alumni celebrated International Peace Day with school girls in Peshawar. Participants were provided with painting material to make drawings and portray their concept of Peace and harmony and certificates were awarded to all participants. On this occasion a peace rock was painted and installed by alumni and school girls.

### Girls Day Celebrated



On October 11, 2013, Pak U.S. Alumni Network KP & FATA Chapter President Mr. Faisal Shehzad delivered a lecture on women rights including Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), Protection against Harassment of women at workplace 2010, concept of marriage and dissolution of Muslim marriage act 1939 at Iqra National University which was to celebrate international Girls Day. Students took special interest in the lecture followed by question and answer session. They also encouraged such lectures and requested to arrange more such sessions.

## Alumni, students & Community

### CO.NX Session at women Business Development Center



On April 17th, IRC Peshawar arranged a CO.NX session on GSP (Pak – U.S. Generalized System of Preference Program) followed by speaker program by IVLP alumni Muhammad Rashid at Women business Development Center Peshawar. 19 business women and entrepreneurs attended the sessions and were briefed on how to market, brand and sell their products duty free in the U.S. markets. The participants welcomed the learning session as a good opportunity to explore U.S. markets to sell their local products.

### Short Movie Show at Lincoln Corner



Asif Ali Shah a member of the Friends of the Corner (a new initiative to involve alumni in programming at the Lincoln corner), invited his university classmates on April 26, 2013 to learn about his experiences in the U.S. on the YES Exchange program and how it impacted his personal and professional life. Afterwards, the students watched and discussed the American short film "The man who corrupted Hadleyburg".



### Session on Importance of Voting



On Monday, April 29, 2013 PUAN-KP Chapter alumni arranged two sessions about the importance of voting at two Public Sector Universities. These sessions were arranged in the context of upcoming elections and the predicted low voter turnout based on the prevailing trend in Pakistan. The sessions also focused on the promotion of good practices which play a key role in strengthening democracy for example, on how to evaluate a political party or description of a political manifesto.

### KP alumni brainstorm community projects



On May 6, KP-based alumni of U.S. exchange programs met at the University of Peshawar's Lincoln Corner to brainstorm projects to submit to the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund competition. This proposal process is an opportunity for senior alumni to mentor younger alumni. The 10-member team plans to submit proposals addressing women empowerment, environmental protection, and conflict resolution.

### KP Students discuss election's significance



On May 17, as part of a series of events about the elections, the KP chapter of the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) hosted a discussion about the May 11 national election. Dr. Hussein Shaheed Soharwardi, an IVLP alumnus, shared with the audience background information about different types of democracy, how democracy flourishes, and factors that contributed to high voter turnout in Pakistan's election. The session was very informative for young students.

### KP alumni promote study abroad



On May 21, KP alumni shared information about studying abroad with over 100 students from IM Sciences. Participants learned how to prepare for the GRE test, the importance of statements of purpose, and information about various scholarships. IRC Peshawar distributed GRE test-prep books.

### KP Students Inspired by PAK-U.S. Exchange Program Documentary



On May 30, students from the University of Peshawar viewed the documentary “Pakistani Students in the United States,” which Dawn TV produced during their TV-Coop program in the United States. The documentary features Pakistani students studying at various U.S. universities on U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. Viewers learned the similarities among youth of both countries. Film producer Zahir Shah engaged the students in a Q&A session about his experiences producing the documentary.

### KP alumni host Summer Tech Camp for girls from underprivileged areas



KP Alumni teamed up with PAS Peshawar June 6-7 to host a Summer Tech Camp for underprivileged female students. During the two-day workshop, students learned about social media and created their first email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. Additionally, they practiced how to use these platforms to raise social issues as “citizen journalists.”

### Career Counseling for FATA Students



On June 11, the KP chapter of the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN) arranged a career counseling session for students and alumni from FATA. U.S. exchange program alumni from a variety of professions gave

advice on applying for U.S. scholarships and various Pakistani standardized tests.

### Alumni support underprivileged families in Ramadan



On July 20, the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) alumni in KP began a month-long campaign to provide food to approximately 65 needy families in three KP cities. Alumni identified 20 underprivileged families in Abbottabad and distributed flour, juice, dates, cooking oil, tea, sugar, and other Ramadan items to each family.

Please click on the link to watch the video [Ramadan Ration Drive](#)

### Technology Camp for underprivileged students



YES Alumni KPK completed series of two-day Tech Camp in Kohat, Attock and Abbottabad. A total of 25 alumni+volunteers participated and 155 students received the training on importance of citizen journalism and social media to promote the positive usage of them. For details please watch the video [Tech Camp Video](#)

## Police Day



On September 10, 2013, our KP Alumni celebrated Traffic Police Day to show respect for KP's hardworking traffic wardens, working in the scorching heat to make our lives easier every day. Water flasks and flowers were presented by our alumni while encouraging compliance of the traffic rules through a placard.

## Cultural Expo



On September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> PUAN KP & FATA Chapter organized Cultural Expo at Institute of Management Sciences. This two day event provided an opportunity to alumni and non-alumni to represent their diverse cultures at one place. Participants dressed in their cultural dresses, decorated their stalls with the souvenirs, traditional stuff and handicrafts. This activity was designed to promote peace and bring harmony among the students coming from various parts of Pakistan and neighboring countries. Various Pashtun tribes, Punjab, Sindh, Afghan, Gilgit, Kailash and Hindu cultures were represented in this event.

## Alumni visit Church Bomb Blast Victims



On September 25, 2013, PUAN KP alumni visited Peshawar Church blast victims at Lady Reading Hospital to show their concern and sympathy. Alumni distributed Juices and milk packs among the victims and spent time with them.

## Career counseling session for Management Students



On September 26, 2013, Friends of Corner arranged a career counseling session at Lincoln Corner for Business Management students. Famous academic advisor Yasir Anwar briefed the participants on the educational opportunities available in the U.S. for Pakistani students and GRE/TOEFL preparation, followed by a quiz and book distribution.

## Alumni Speech Competition





On September 30, 2013, PUAN KP & FATA Chapter arranged alumni speech competition at Edwardes College Peshawar. Alumni and non-alumni participated and delivered speeches on the topic Education and Literacy. Winners and runners up were given prizes by the PUAN Chapter President.

### Project Better Opportunities



On October 5, 2013 PUAN KP & FATA YES Alumni Successfully conducted a workshop in Peshawar Model School, Peshawar. Workshop was focused on creating awareness about Social Media and to promote a positive use of it. It also focused on to motivate students about their career and passion and how to achieve what they want in life through education.

### Free Medical Camp



On October 10, 2013, PUAN KP & FATA Chapter organized free medical camp in a nearby village Charsadda. Registered medical practitioners volunteered to do checkup locals of the village. Free

medicines were provided to the patients including children, women and old age citizens. KP Alumni volunteered in organizing the medical camp

### KP Alumni Encourage Voter Participation in Upcoming Elections



On May 2, at the Lincoln Corner, University of Peshawar, the PUAN-KP alumni held a mock election to introduce the concept as for many the upcoming elections will be their first time to vote. The alumni represented different political parties/manifestos in their speeches. Party leaders urged the youngsters to use their voting rights. Pakistan currently stands at 164 (in 169 countries) in voter turn-out. The mock elections gave the participants an understanding of democracy.

## Alumni Gatherings

### Alumni Summer Camp at Naran



Pak U.S. Alumni Network - KP & FATA Chapter arranged alumni Summer Camp at Naran. Camp was arranged from June 20th till 23rd and included various competitions at under privileged schools, firefighting training session and community clean up at famous Lake Saif ul Malook and a cricket match. Many new and old alumni got a chance to get acquainted with each other, strengthening the chapter.



### PAS Peshawar promotes American literature among KP students



On July 6, IRC Peshawar and PUAN's KP chapter showcased "To Kill a Mocking Bird" at Lincoln Corner Peshawar. Over 30 university students watched the movie and received copies of the book, following a discussion about tolerance. Movie screenings are a valuable youth outreach tool for PAS Peshawar.

### Alumni Iftaar and Dinner



On August 3rd Pak U.S Alumni Network KP & FATA Chapter arranged Iftar and dinner for alumni as a Chapter activity. 60 alumni from Global UGrad, YES, IVLP, SUSI, Benjamin Franklin, PELI, CCIP attended this event. It was held to facilitate new alumni to start networking with old members and to integrate alumni from different programs in PUAN. This event served the purpose, as recently arrived YES alumni were seen chatting with IVLPS and alumni discussing future activities.

### Eid Milan Party and Guest Speaker for Alumni



PUAN KP Chapter arranged an Eid Milan Party for alumni at a local restaurant on August 20th, 2013. Famous lawyer and academician Mohammad Ali was invited as a guest speaker to deliver a lecture on personality types and conflict resolution. A question and answer session after lecture was held followed by high tea, which around 50 alumni enjoyed a lot.

### Movie Night



On September 14, 2013, PUAN KP Chapter held a movie night for KP alumni where they watched a documentary, "Feeding the Beast". After the movie alumni were engaged in different indoor games, which was a moment of joy for all of them. This activity was to integrate many alumni from different exchange programs in PUAN (Alumni Association) for better coordination and brainstorming for further activities.

## Orientation for New Alumni at Lincoln Corner Peshawar



On September 19, IRC Peshawar, PUAN KP Chapter and Friends of Library jointly organized an orientation session for fresh alumni of U.S. exchange programs. The alumni were briefed about chapter activities and the procedures to initiate or participate in activities targeted towards social development in their areas. The participants were also briefed about IRC resources and services including Lincoln Corner Peshawar, eLibrary USA, Reference and Research and Friends of Corner.

## Great Work by our Alumni

### RANRA BY Shahzad Haider

Socrates said that, “Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.” With that conviction Ranra (Light), the vision for a public library was laid. Abu Huraira, a town on the outskirts of Peshawar, cut off from the throbbing life of the city, where 80% of the inhabitants are mechanics, carpenters, hawkers, shopkeepers, painters; who haven’t opened a book in their lifetime. Hardened by the economic duress they foresee a future for their children in this same drudgery of illiteracy. The hands that should have held pens were given hammers and tools. Child labor in this town is not an anomaly, but a bulwark against starvation. Even though some children attend public schools, their education is of low quality because of less qualified teachers, lack of facilities within the schools, and the fact that most children can’t afford books, or school uniforms to be a part of this shabby system of education. Another major problem is that they are not able to converse fluently in English or even Urdu. There

was no impetus to better their life; most of them don’t expect any more than primary schooling.

Impelled by these issues I decided to set up a library, asking people for book donations for the last year. The donation of a building by a philanthropist in my area, made it possible to set the library up. Gradually, the books burgeoned up to 2000. On June 13<sup>th</sup> 2013, I felt I had kindled the minds of the first 9 kids that entered the library. Their questions and thirst for knowledge made the library into a tuition Centre. To date, 70 children are being taught at Ranra(light); they receive Basic English tutoring, naming objects, animals, sounds, colors, shapes, body parts; health and hygiene awareness is also inculcated through various sessions. Since I believe in rising above conventional forms of education, I show them videos of different kinds of pollution, patriotism, moral values, professions etc.

The need for education is alive; I am entirely committed to this venture, however financial and logistic constraints weigh down our spirits. The library needs shelves and cupboards for the books, tables and chairs for the students to sit on, books related to curriculum, stationary items, banners that will be placed outside to encourage donors and create awareness, sports equipment, teaching materials like a larger board, posters and paint for decorating the class, and teachers who would be interested in volunteering for few hours.

Every social project requires support from the entire society in order to ensure its success and survival. Ranra(light) will light up these young minds because it believes education surpasses all the hurdles of life, it will enable them to hope for a brighter future. Our goal is to ‘leave no child behind’!

